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RUMOR

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1. USSR: Possible aim of Stalin interview -- US Embassy Moscow considers that Stalin's 30 January press interview reflects Soviet concern over the rapid development of an effective Atlantic defensive union and the Kremlin's determination to frustrate or delay its conclusion. The Embassy further believes that the interview is a part of the "peace offensive" and was timed to divert attention from the blunt Soviet demarche to Norway and the Kremlin's attack on the Atlantic Pact. In the Embassy's opinion, the vigor of the Soviet reaction to "an obviously defensive pact" arouses suspicions concerning Soviet intentions, which should be exposed through all available US media of information.

(CIA Comment: CIA agrees that Stalin's latest interview is designed to prevent or delay western defensive efforts. CIA also believes that the interview reflects continued Soviet concern over the possible formation of a west German government.)

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Evidence of Soviet participation in the Greek fighting--
The US Military Attache in Bucharest has learned from a reliable source that: (a) wounded Greek, Rumanian, and Soviet partisans, including Soviet army officers, have been transferred to Rumanian hospitals from the fighting front in Greece; and (b) Soviet planes have been evacuating Greek and Russian wounded men and have flown medical and military supplies into Greece. The MA points out that this is the first definite evidence of Soviet participation in the Greek fighting.

(CIA Comment: CIA has received no other evidence of Soviet or Rumanian military participation in the Greek fighting.)

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